

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image capturing apparatus comprising:
an image generator for capturing a subject and generating image data;
a discriminator for discriminating whether a part of a user is included in an objective area to be captured or not on the basis of a plurality of pieces of image data generated in a time series manner by said image generator; and
a controller for controlling operation of said image capturing apparatus on the basis of a result of discrimination of said discriminator.
2. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
the part of said user is a finger of said user.
3. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a display for displaying said plurality of pieces of image data as preview display before photographing, wherein
said discriminator discriminates whether the part of said user is included in said objective area or not on the basis of said plurality of pieces of image data to be displayed on said display.
4. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
an indicator for notifying said user, wherein
said controller notifies said user of the result of discrimination by using said indicator when said discriminator discriminates that the part of said user is included in said objective area.

5. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
an image processor for generating image data to be recorded from image data generated by said image generator, wherein
said controller controls said image processor so as to generate said image-data-to-be-recorded obtained by eliminating an area including the part of said user from said image data generated by said image generator when said discriminator discriminates that the part of said user is included in said objective area.
6. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said discriminator discriminates whether the part of said user is included in said objective area or not on the basis of a change in the position of a low brightness area in said plurality of pieces of image data.
7. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:
a detector for detecting hue information of said low brightness area, wherein
said discriminator discriminates whether the part of said user is included in said objective area or not on the basis of a change in the position of the low brightness area in said plurality of pieces of image data and hue information detected by said detector.
8. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein
said hue information is information of flesh color.
9. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a focusing lens, wherein
said plurality of pieces of image data is image data generated in a time-series

manner while moving the position of said focusing lens.

10. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein
said discriminator discriminates whether or not the part of said user is included
in said objective area on the basis of a change in contrast in a predetermined area in said
plurality of pieces of image data.

11. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein
said predetermined area is an area positioned in a peripheral portion of said
objective area.

12. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:
a detector for detecting hue information of said predetermined area, wherein
said discriminator discriminates whether the part of said user is included in said
objective area or not on the basis of said change in contrast and said hue information
detected by the detector.

13. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein
said hue information is information of flesh color.

14. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said controller inhibits image capturing operation of image-data-to-be-recorded
when said discriminator discriminates that the part of said user is included in said
objective area.

15. The image capturing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a display for displaying captured image data, wherein

said controller displays said captured image data on said display for a first period when said discriminator discriminates that the part of said user is not included in said objective area, and said controller displays said captured image data on said display for a second period which is longer than the first period when said discriminator discriminates that the part of said user is included in said objective area.

16. A method of controlling operation of an image capturing apparatus, comprising the steps of:

capturing a subject and generating image data in a time series manner;

discriminating whether a part of a user is included in an objective area to be captured or not on the basis of a plurality of pieces of image data generated in a time-series manner; and

controlling operation of said image capturing apparatus on the basis of a result of said discrimination.

17. The method according to claim 16, wherein

the part of said user is a finger of said user.